

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, CGEN, PFOR, BU (MAREVA, RUMYANKA AND YORDANKA)

SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILIES CASE

REF: A) STATE 201670; B) STATE 203992; C) SOFIA 930; D) SOFIA 430

1. SUMMARY: MAREV CASE IS CONSIDERABLY MORE COMPLICATED THAN HE HAS LET ON TO DEPARTMENT. RECORD HERE INDICATES THAT IN 1972 MAREV'S MOTHER-IN-LAW, WHO THEN HAD CUSTODY OF CHILDREN, SAID THE GIRLS WERE TOTALLY ALIENATED FROM THEIR PARENTS DUE TO ABANDONMENT AND LONG SEPARATION. IN APRIL 1975, ZHELEZ ZHELEZOV, MRS. MAREV'S BROTHER, INFORMED EMBASSY GIRLS WERE LIVING WITH HIM AND FULLY INTEGRATED INTO HIS FAMILY. ZHELEZOV IS BENEFICIARY OF IMMIGRANT VISA PETITION FILED BY MAREVS, WHICH HE APPARENTLY HAS NEVER FOLLOWED UP. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO RECONTACT ZHELEZOV IN ORDER TO GET LATEST INFORMATION. IF GIRLS DO NOT WISH TO LEAVE, OR IF ZHELEZOV AS LEGAL GUARDIAN DOES NOT WISH THEM TO LEAVE, THERE WOULD BE GREAT SIMILARITY WITH LYUBOMIR KHRISTOV CASE (REF D AND RELATED TRAFFIC), EXCEPT THAT NOW SHOE WOULD BE ON THE OTHER FOOT. IN ANY EVENT, BELIEVE WE NEED MORE INFORMATION BEFORE WE PRESS CASE WITH GOB. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING A 1972 INTERVIEW MRS. ZHELEZOVA, GRAND-MOTHER OF THE CHILDREN WHO THEN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR
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THEIR CARE, REPORTED THAT THE GIRLS HAD BECOME

ALIENATED FROM THEIR PARENTS, BLAMING THEM FOR THEIR SEMI-ORPHANED CONDITION, AND THAT NEITHER SHE NOR THE CHILDREN WANTED TO JOIN PARENTS IN THE U.S. MRS. ZHELEZOVA PROBABLY COMMUNICATED THAT INFORMATION TO GOB WHICH MAY PARTLY EXPLAIN GOB RELUCTANCE TO ISSUE REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION.

3. EMBASSY'S MOST RECENT CONTACT WITH FAMILY IN BULGARIA WAS APRIL 1975 WHEN ROUTINE LETTER TO CHILDREN'S GRANDMOTHER WAS ANSWERED BY MRS. MAREVA'S BROTHER, ZHELEZ ATANASOV ZHELEZOV OF VARNA. ZHELEZOV SAID CHILDREN'S GRANDMOTHER WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO CARE FOR THE GIRLS AND THEY HAD BEEN UNDER HIS CARE FOR AN UNSPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME. ZHELEZOV SAID HE HAD RECEIVED INVITATION FROM MAREVS FOR HIMSELF, HIS WIFE, HIS OWN TWO CHILDREN AND MAREVA GIRLS (WHOM HE NOW CONSIDERED TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF HIS FAMILY) TO JOIN MAREVS IN THE U.S. AT ABOUT SAME TIME, EMBASSY RECEIVED AN APPROVED IMMIGRANT PETITION FOR MR. ZHELEZOV FROM INS CHICAGO OFFICE. EMBASSY ADVISED ZHELEZOV OF PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION FOR IMMIGRANT VISAS. HE PROMISED TO OBTAIN NECESSARY DOCUMENTS, APPLY FOR REQUIRED BULGARIAN PASSPORTS AND EXIT PERMISSION, AND TO KEEP US ADVISED OF PROGRESS. WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM ZHELEZOV SINCE.

4. EMBASSY ATTEMPTING REESTABLISH CONTACT WITH ZHELEZOV TO ASCERTAIN STATUS OF HIS AND MAREVA CHILDREN'S APPLICATIONS FOR PERMISSION TO LEAVE BULGARIA. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S OBTAINING CLEAR STATEMENT OF MAREVS' DESIRES AND INTENTIONS CONCERNING TRAVEL OF BROTHER AND HIS FAMILY.

5. EMBASSY HAS VALID IMMIGRANT VISA PETITIONS FOR MAREV CHILDREN. AS NOTED IN REF A, MAREV CHILDREN HAVE BEEN ON EMBASSY'S DIVIDED FAMILY LIST FOR SEVERAL YEARS. THEY WERE SUBJECTS OF NOTE TO MFA DATED OCTOBER 18, 1973. THEY WERE NOT INCLUDED ON LIST OF 42 APPROVED CASES TRANSMITTED TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEPARTMENT IN REF C.

6. EMBASSY IS PREPARED TO PRESS CASE WITH GOB, BUT IN VIEW OF PROBABLE LINKAGE WITH KHRISTOV CASE, BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE IN FULL POSSESSION OF ALL FACTS FIRST. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S OBTAINING FROM MAREVS FULL HISTORY OF RECENT STEPS THEY HAVE TAKEN VIS-A-VIS THE GOB FOR CHILDREN'S RELEASE.

THIS SHOULD INCLUDE ALL AFFIDAVITS OF SUPPORT
AND PETITIONS PREPARED IN FAVOR OF THE CHILDREN
AND OTHER RELATIVES IN BULGARIA AND, TO BEST
MAREV'S KNOWLEDGE, STEPS TAKEN BY RELATIVES IN
BULGARIA TO APPLY FOR PASSPORTS AND EXIT
PERMISSION.
HERZ

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